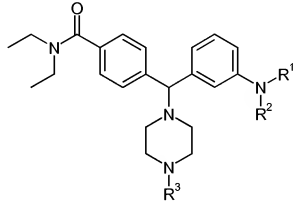
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



I

wherein

R^1 is selected from C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-9}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-9}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, R^8-C(=O)-, R^8-S(=O)$_2$-, R^8-S(=O)-, R^8-NHC(=O)-, R^8-C(=S)- and R^8-NH-C(=S)-, wherein R^8 is selected from C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-9}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-9}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-9}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-9}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-~~C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-~~, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl ~~C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl~~ used in defining R^1 and R^8 are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, $-NO_2$, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, $-CF_3$, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR_2, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, selected from -H, C_{1-6}alkyl and phenyl;

R^2 is selected from -H and C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from ~~halogen,~~ $-CF_3$, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, and halogen; and

R^3 is selected from -H, C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl, $-NO_2$, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6}alkoxy and halogen.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^1 is selected from C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, ~~halogen,~~ $-CF_3$, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;

R^2 is selected from –H and C_{1-3}alkyl; and

R^3 is selected from –H and C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 2,

wherein R^1 is R^9-CH_2-, wherein R^9 is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, N-oxido-pyridyl, benzyl, pyridylmethyl, thienylmethyl, furylmethyl, imidazolylmethyl, triazolylmethyl, pyrrolylmethyl, thiazolylmethyl and N-oxido-pyridylmethyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, ~~halogen,~~ $-CF_3$, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy and halogen; and

R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 3,

wherein R^9 is selected from benzyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl and thiazolyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, ~~halogen,~~ $-CF_3$, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 4, wherein

~~wherein~~ R^9 is selected from benzyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl and thiazolyl.

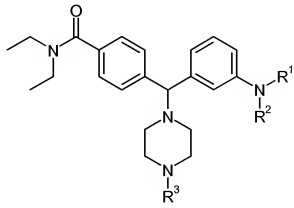
6. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^1 is selected from C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, ~~halogen,~~ $-CF_3$, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;

R^2 is –H or C_{1-3}alkyl; and

R^3 is –H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, $-CF_3$, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen.

7. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



I

wherein

R^1 is selected from 1-propyl, 2-propyl, 1-butyl, 2-butyl, t-butyl, 2-methyl-1-propyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, cyclooctyl, and cyclononyl;

R^2 is selected from –H, methyl, ethyl, 1-propyl and 2-propyl; and

R^3 is selected from –H, methyl, ethyl, allyl, 3,3-dimethyl-allyl, cyclopropylmethyl, 2-methoxy-ethyl, and 3-methoxy-1-propyl.

8. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^1 is selected from R^8-C(=O)-, R^8-$S(=O)_2$-, R^8-S(=O)-, R^8-NHC(=O)-, R^8-C(=S)- and R^8-NH-C(=S)-, wherein R^8 is selected from C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl; wherein said C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl ~~C_{3-6}cycloalkyl~~, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl ~~C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl~~ are optionally substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl, ~~halogen,~~ -CF_3, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;

R^2 is –H; and

R^3 is selected from –H and C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-.

9. (original) A compound according to claim 8, wherein

R^8 is selected from phenyl, benzyl, phenethyl and cyclohexyl, wherein said phenyl, benzyl, phenethyl and cyclohexyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from methyl, methoxy and halogen.

10. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:

N,N-diethyl-4-((S)piperazin-1-yl{3-[(1,3-thiazol-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl)benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-((R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(1,3-thiazol-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl)benzamide;

4-[(S)-[3-(benzylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-((R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(thien-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl)benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-((S)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(thien-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl)benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(2-furylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-[(R)-[3-(benzylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(2-furylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-((R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(thien-3-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl)benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-((S)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(thien-3-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl)benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(3-furylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(2-phenylethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-[(*R*)-{3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-piperazin-1-yl(3-{[4-trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}phenyl)methyl]benzamide;

4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclopentylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(S)-{3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohex-1-en-1-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[methyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[ethyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[methyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[ethyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(R)-[3-(cyclopentylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(R)-[3-(cycloheptylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(R)-[3-(cyclooctylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(R)-[3-(cyclononylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(S)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(4-methylphenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(4-methylphenyl)amino]phenyl} (piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-[(R)-{3-[(3-chlorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(S)-{3-[(3-chlorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(2-fluorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(S)-{3-[(2-fluorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(R)-[3-(benzoylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(phenylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(S)-[3-(benzoylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(phenylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(2-methyl-2-phenylpropanoyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-(3-{[(3-fluorophenyl)acetyl]amino}phenyl)(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohexylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(3-phenylpropanoyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohexylcarbonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(benzylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(anilinocarbonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(anilinocarbonothioyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(*S*)-1-piperazinyl[3-(propylamino)phenyl]methyl]benzamide;
4-[(*S*)-[3-(dipropylamino)phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-1-piperazinyl[3-(propylamino)phenyl]methyl]benz-amide;
4-[(*R*)-[3-(dipropylamino)phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(*S*)-1-piperazinyl[3-[[[4-(3-pyridinyl)phenyl]methyl]-amino]phenyl]methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(*S*)-[3-[[[4-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl]methyl]amino]-phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(*S*)-1-piperazinyl[3-[(2-quinolinylmethyl)amino]phenyl]-methyl]benzamide;
4-[(*R*)-[3-[(2,2-diphenylethyl)amino]phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(*R*)-[3-[[[4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]amino]phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[3-[[(4-phenoxyphenyl)methyl]amino]phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[4-(2-propenyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-(propylamino)-phenyl]methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[4-(2-methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-(propylamino)-phenyl]methyl]benzamide;

N,*N*-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[4-(3-methoxypropyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-(propyl-amino)phenyl]methyl]benzamide;
4-[(S)-[3-(cycloheptylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(S)-[3-(cyclooctylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(3-phenylpropanoyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(*R*)-(3-aminophenyl)[4-(2-propenyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]-*N*,*N*-diethyl- benzamide;
4-[(*R*)-(3-aminophenyl)[4-(3-methyl-2-butenyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]-*N*,*N*-diethyl-benzamide;
4-[(*R*)-(3-aminophenyl)[4-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]-*N*,*N*-diethyl- benzamide;
N,*N*-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[4-(2-propenyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-[(2-thienylmethyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]-benzamide;
N,*N*-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[4-(3-methyl-2-butenyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-[(2-thienylmethyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]-benzamide;
4-[(*R*)-[4-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-[(2-thienylmethyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]-*N*,*N*-diethyl-benzamide;
4-{(S)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl][4-(cyclopropylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(S)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl](4-propylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(S)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl](4-ethylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-{(S)-(4-allylpiperazin-1-yl)[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl]methyl}-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(S)-{3-[(cyclohexylcarbonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(S)-{3-[(cyclohexylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(S)-{3-[cyclohexyl(methyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[cyclohexyl(methyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
enantiomers thereof; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

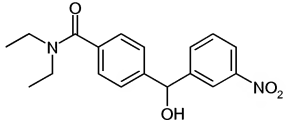
11-12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 14. (previously presented) A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

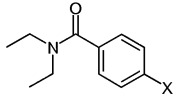
Claims 15 -16. (cancelled)

Claim 17. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula II, comprising:



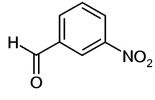
II

a) reacting a compound of formula III:



III

with a compound of formula IV

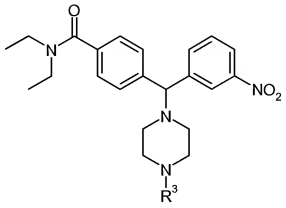


IV

in the presence of a base having a pKa of more than 15

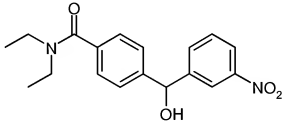
wherein X is a halogen.

Claim 18. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula VI:



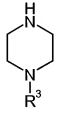
VI,

comprising: reacting a compound of formula II



II

with a compound of formula VII



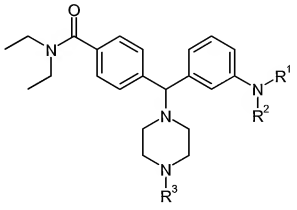
VII

in the presence of SOX_2 to form the compound of formula VI, wherein

R^3 is selected from -H, C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl, -NO_2, -CF_3, C_{1-6}alkoxy and halogen; and

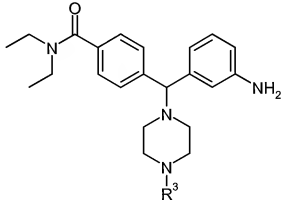
X is halogen.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula I,



I

comprising: reacting a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

with R^9-CHO in the presence of a reducing agent to form the compound of formula I:

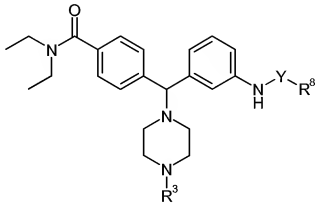
wherein

R^1 is R^9-CH_2-, wherein R^9 is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, N-oxido-pyridyl, benzyl, pyridylmethyl, thienylmethyl, furylmethyl, imidazolylmethyl, triazolylmethyl, pyrrolylmethyl, thiazolylmethyl and N-oxido-pyridylmethyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, ~~halogen,~~ -CF_3, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy and halogen;

R^2 is -H; and

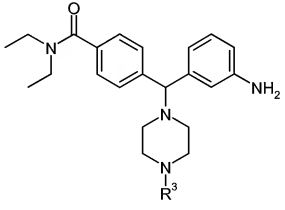
R^3 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl, -NO_2, -CF_3, C_{1-6}alkoxy and halogen.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula IX,



IX

comprising: reacting a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

with R^8-Y-X or R^8-Y-O-Y-R^8 to form the compound of formula IX:

wherein

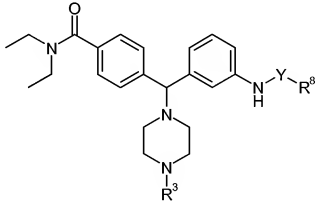
X is halogen;

Y is selected from –C(=O)- and –S(=O)$_2$-;

R^8 is selected from C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl; wherein said C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl ~~C_{3-6}cycloalkyl~~, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl ~~C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl~~ are optionally substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl, ~~halogen,~~ -CF_3, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen; and

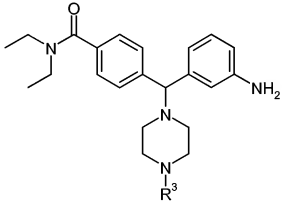
R^3 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl, -NO_2, -CF_3, C_{1-6}alkoxy and halogen.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula IX,



IX

comprising: reacting a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

with R^8-Z to form the compound of formula IX:

wherein

Z is selected from –NCO and -NCS;

Y is selected from –C(=O)NH- and –C(=S)NH-;

R^8 is selected from C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl; wherein said C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl ~~C_{3-6}cycloalkyl~~, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl-~~C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl~~ are optionally substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl, ~~halogen,~~ -CF_3, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen; and

R^3 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl, -NO_2, -CF_3, C_{1-6}alkoxy and halogen.